



REETH

June, 1956

Officials; Wm. C. Speirs, M.B., Ch. B., Medical Officer  
of Health.

Jno. V. Metcalfe, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,  
Sanitary Inspector

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1955. The statistics are based on a population of 2,000 persons. This is a decrease in last year's figures. The population has been steadily decreasing for the last sixty years.

The area of the district is 74,538 acres or 116 square miles. The density of the population is 17.24 to each square mile. The number of inhabited houses is 890.

The rateable value is £8,555 and a penny rate yields £33 1s. 9d.

VITAL STATISTICS

	M	F	Total	Rate per 1,000 of pop.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births
Live Births	13	13	26		
Legitimate	13	13	26		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
Still Births	1	-	1		38.5
Deaths	16	18	34	17	
Deaths under one year	1	1	2		77
Deaths under four weeks	1	1	2		77



## SUMMARY OF DEATHS

	M	F	Total
Malignant Neoplasms of Breast	-	2	2
Other Malignant Disease	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of Central Nervous System	4	5	9
Coronary Thrombosis	8	2	10
Other Heart Disease	1	1	2
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach	-	1	1
Other defined Diseases	1	3	4
	16	18	34

## EPILEPSY AND SPASTICS

Spastics                      Two females

Epilepsy                      Two males and two females.

They are nursed at home under the care of the family doctor.

## BLIND PERSONS

Aged                      one male                      Three females

Middle aged              Two males



There were no deaths from sepsis or other puerperal causes.

Deaths from measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Cancer	3
Deaths from Tuberculosis	Nil

The home nursing is carried out by a District Nurse resident in Reeth. The nursing in the Parish of Marrick is carried out by nurses resident in Richmond. There is no special arrangement for the nursing of sick children. The District Nurse does some of the injections given at the patients' homes. A high percentage of the confinements are sent to either Darlington or Northallerton. There is a children's clinic monthly at Reeth when immunisations are done. Vaccinations are done by the General Practitioners.

The ambulance service is efficiently carried out from the North Riding Department at Richmond.

#### Water Supplies

The question of the water supply still causes much concern in your District. The Council do not proceed with any suggested scheme as they regard any financial offers inadequate.



The water in the taps at the schools is examined frequently. The water supplied to Reeth School is grossly contaminated with Foecal Coli. In November the figure was 17 per cent. Other schools are only moderately infected.

#### NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	M.	F.	Total
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Food poisoning	-	-	-
Measles	10	16	26
Whooping Cough	3	7	10

#### TUBERCULOSIS

Age	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
0-1	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-
25+	1	1	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-

Yours faithfully,

W. C. SPEIRS.





# REETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT - 1955

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLIES

It is distressing to report that yet once again another year has passed without getting any further forward towards providing adequate and wholesome supplies of water throughout the area. Schemes have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to supply the upper part of Swaledale from the East Ghyll Springs, the lower end from the excellent springs on Bauldershaw Moor, giving the same coverage as the Regional Scheme. A system of smaller schemes, to supply Reeth, Grinton, Fremington, Healaugh, Crackpot, and Marrick were also put forward as an alternative, followed by an investigation on the spot by Ministry officials. On two occasions, deputations from the Council attended the Ministry offices in London. The outcome of these investigations and meetings was to the effect that the Ministry advised the Council that the Regional Scheme would be most suitable to the needs of the district, and that the Bauldershaw Springs should be incorporated. Briefly, the springs for the smaller schemes were found not to be satisfactory unless individual treatment of the supplies were to be carried out, the total cost, including a supply to Keld and Thwaite, together with improvements to existing supplies would not be a great deal less than the Regional Scheme, taking also into account the respective merits of the proposals. In addition, the gaugings of the springs for the Marrick scheme, showed that during this droughty year there was an insufficiency of water to provide the supply by means of a hydraulic ram.

Reference must also be made to the gaugings of the East Ghyll Springs. These carried during the years 1946 to 1950 showed a minimum gauging of 183,870 gallons per 24 hours, in September, 1955 this had dropped to 90,000 gallons per 24 hours - an alarming difference. Whilst the amount of water available would be sufficient for the requirements, I was greatly disturbed at the reduction compared with previous dry years - was part of the spring being lost underground, had the extensive guttering carried out on the moors been the cause? In any case, whatever the cause, could it become more serious and result in a similar large variation in the yield? As can be gathered, these thoughts have been constantly in my mind, and following several excursions to the springs to thoroughly survey the gathering grounds has resulted in my losing confidence in these springs as the sole source of supply for Swaledale. It may be argued that 1955 was an extremely dry year, and that the gaugings showed a sufficiency for estimated requirements, but having been acquainted with these springs over a period of ten years, I am of the opinion that they should only be considered for a supply to the upper portion of the district.

Before leaving this subject of proposed water schemes I would like to take the opportunity of reporting on the pleasant and courteous manner in which representatives of this Council have been received by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government officials. These, both at Whitehall, and while carrying out investigations in the District have been most helpful, and most thorough in their investigations to gain an overall knowledge of the requirements of the area. All members of the Council may not always agree with their findings, but I feel sure that the general agreement will be that this close co-operation is most satisfactory.

#### Existing Water Supplies

Of the existing supplies, bacteriological analysis continue to confirm that these are subject to surface pollution. During



the year, owing to the proximity of rabbits affected with myxamytosis in the collection areas, notices advising house-holders to boil water before use were posted in Reeth, Fremington, Healaugh, Low Row, and Gunnerside.

Owing to the very dry year, shortages occurred at Reeth, Marrick, Grinton, Healaugh, Low Row, Gunnerside, Thwaite and Keld.

With further reference to proposed schemes of water supply, much time has been spent preparing the different proposals, but the majority of the drawings, calculations and other paper work has been carried out after normal working hours, and at week-ends; two weeks of annual leave were also devoted entirely to this work.

### SEWERAGE

No new or improved schemes of sewerage or sewage disposal have been carried out during the year, these awaiting the improvement to water supplies. In the meantime, bad effluents are being discharged from the existing works, and, owing to the absence of proper sewers, nuisances continue at Thwaite, Marrick and Langthwaite.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Conversions from dry closets to W.C.'s	59
Additional W.C.'s to existing property	7
Private sewage disposal to cesspools or septic tanks	21
New drains tested	370 yards
Existing drains tested	32 tests

NOTE:- The majority of conversions have been carried out to outlying properties, under Hill Farming Improvements.

### HOUSING

#### Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

##### Section 1 - Slum Clearance

Under the foregoing, the Council's proposals in respect of Slum Clearance have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and have been approved. The proposals show that there are six individual unfit houses to be dealt with within the next five years. There are no Clearance Areas to be dealt with, consequently, no programme of re-housing for this purpose is required.

Although the Council are not faced with a Slum Clearance problem, it should be noted that the general standard of housing throughout the area is low, a large proportion of the houses requiring improvements and repair. This can only be achieved by devoting a good deal of time to this work, carrying out detailed inspections, followed by service of notices requiring repairs and improvements. Encouragement to the latter is given by assistance with Improvement Grants.

#### Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants

No. of applications for Grant Aid	9
No. approved	6
Total cost of works	£3,562
Approved proportion for Grant	£2,127
Amount of Grant approved	£818





The works of improvement consisted of, one derelict house completely re-conditioned and modernised, the others comprising new bathrooms, W.C.'s, Hot and Cold water services, new ranges.

Improvement works carried out without Grant Aid

New Bathrooms	16
W.C.'s and drainage	48
Internal piped water supply	5
Hot water systems	16
Improved kitchens	8
Ventilated larders	4

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The service has been maintained throughout the year, the three tips, Arkengarthdale, Teetham Wood and Ellerton Moor sites still being in use. The latter tip is nearing completion, covering material now being led to cover the tip faces.

Rodent control measures have been regularly carried out by the men employed on the collection vehicle.

FOOD INSPECTION AND FOOD HYGIENE

Meat Inspection

This continues to be carried out at the two Licensed Slaughterhouses in the district.

No. of meat inspection visits	96
Total weight involved - Cattle, Sheep, Pigs	39 tons
Carcases condemned	2
Offal condemned	1½ cwts.

The main causes of condemnation of offal was found in beast livers, affected with cirrhosis. Other causes were localised abscesses and cysts.

Details of complete condemnation:-

- 1 - Beef Carcase and Offal - Generalised Tuberculosis.  
Carcase - 528 lbs. Offal - 162 lbs.
- 1 - Heifer Carcase and Offal - Emergency slaughter, back and leg injury. Carcase badly set and oedematous.  
Carcase - 184 lbs. Offal - 56 lbs.

Other Foods

Retail shops - food condemned Nil

Food Hygiene

A good standard of cleanliness in retail food shops continues to be maintained, and also in hotels and cafes.

A survey of Licensed premises reveals that although appearances are clean, there is generally a lack of proper facilities in the way of hot and cold water at bar sinks, glass draining equipment, separate sinks for washing up and food preparation in kitchens, convenient wash-hand basins for use in connection with toilets. Enforcement of the recent Food Hygiene Regulations will go far to remedy these matters.



### Ice Cream Manufacture and Sale

The two registered premises for the manufacture of this product, both now use the cold mix method, and in each case production is carried on in a proper and hygienic manner.

Retailers deal only in the pre-packed product.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

#### Registered Premises

Cooked Meats	4
Bakehouses	7
Ice Cream Manufacture	2
Retail Sale	12

### SCHOOLS

Other than at Reeth and Arkengarthdale the water supplies to the schools in the area are from Council mains. The private supply to Reeth School has been very restricted during the year owing to the drougthy weather, water for the school kitchen being brought in milk churns each day. In spite of this shortage, the toilet accommodation has been kept in proper order. The springs supplying the water to the school in addition to being inadequate in quantity, are also subject to surface pollution.

The preparation of meals at the schools has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

### RODENT CONTROL

Only minor infestations to a few houses have had to be dealt with. No disinfestations have been carried out at farms or other premises.

Regular treatment and check control has been followed at the Council Refuse Tips and Sewage works, preventing any major infestation developing.

### FACTORIES

Routine inspections of the seven premises on the register have been carried out during the year. No defects were found.

### SHOPS ACT

All retail shops in the area have been inspected with regard to the health provisions of this Act.

### TENTS; VANS AND SHEDS

No increase in the number of these structures is reported during the year under review. The existing individual structures have been conducted in a proper manner.

### NUISANCES

Inspections for nuisance only	71
Nuisances found	12
Number needing abatement	12
Number abated by informal action	12
Formal action	Nil





## SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Complaints investigated	18
Drainage work in progress	173
Bakeries	38
Catering establishments	52
Licensed premises	61
Ice Cream sale shops	24
Rodent control (private houses)	44
Rodent control (Council undertakings)	96
Private water supplies	36
Council water undertakings	68
Private sewage disposal	27
Council sewerage	32
Refuse Tips	28
Dairies	12
Housing improvement works in progress	162
Miscellaneous	76

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1.	(a)	Total number of houses inspected during the year for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	339
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	360
2.	(a)	Number of houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
3.		Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	2
4.		Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.	112
2.		<u>Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notice</u>	
		Number of houses made fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	27
3.		<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>	
	(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	1.	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	7
	2.	Number of houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices	
	(a)	by owners	5
	(b)	by local authority in default of owners	Nil
	(b)	<u>Proceedings under the Public Health Act</u>	
		Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
		Number of houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices	
	(a)	by owners	4
	(b)	by local authority in default of owners	Nil

